U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE NRCS-CPA-53 12-02

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CONSERVATION EFFECTS BENCHMARK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Resource Setting:

South Cropland Unit (1b) – Soil B is the predominate soil type with slopes that range from 3-8%. Cropland soil erosion has created soil deposition along the east fence line. An ephemeral gully was observed at the south end of the unit. No permanent cover is present.

Resource Concerns Before Treatment:

- Soil erosion: sheet and rill erosion
- Soil deposition; onsite damage
- Plant suitability; intended use (crops)
- Animal habitat, wildlife; cover
- Human economic; profitability
- Soil erosion; concentrated flow

Benchmark (Present management system)

Actions - Present Management (kinds, amounts, and timing)

- annual crop rotation
- spring tillage with low residue at planting time
- N-S row direction

Effects

(Effects of continuing the benchmark system)

- limited fall hunting opportunities
- soil depostion in fence
- gullies in crop field causing difficulty when farming
- sheet and rill erosion at 15 tons/acre/year
- ephemeral gully erosion at 100 tons/year
- low crop diversity

Comments: Based on a recent agroforestry seminar, the owners are interested in rows of trees on this unit that could produce a crop of nuts as long as no more than 5% of the cropland is used.